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**CHINA APPOINTS SPECIAL ENVOY TO 'DEEPEN' TIES WITH SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (SCO) NATIONS**

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15.01.2026

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Anadolu Agency (16 January 2026)

Riyaz ul Khaliq

China has appointed a special representative to "deepen" ties with member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Foreign Ministry announced Wednesday.

The special representative is an important post China set up to deepen exchanges and cooperation with the SCO countries, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning told reporters.

Ambassador Yan Wenbin was appointed special representative on SCO affairs as well as the SCO national coordinator, she said.

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